

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-18 and 20-49 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 7, 8, 25, 27, 30-42, and 44-49 are amended. Also, the title is amended in response to the Office Action objection. Accordingly, the title is descriptive. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn. No new matter has been added.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 14-18, 20-24, and 27-45 are allowed (Office Action Summary). Applicant also appreciates the indication that claims 9-13 and 26 are allowable (page 4 of the Office Action).

Claims 2, 25, and 27 are objected to because of alleged informalities found therein. With respect to claim 2, claim 2 is amended to clarify that the photosensitive body defines a plurality of photosensitive drums (e.g., Fig. 1; page 6, line 22 - line 5, page 7 of the application). With respect to claim 25, a position of one of the photosensitive body and the processing devices does shift relative to the process cartridge when the process cartridge is loaded in and unloaded from the mainframe (e.g., Figs. 2 and 4A; page 16, line 25 - line 9, page 17 of the application). As to claim 27, the misspelling in line 3 is corrected. Accordingly, the amendments to at least claims 2 and 27 overcome the objection. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 46-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The amendment to the claims overcomes the rejection. For example, the terms "first transformation element" and "second transformation element" as recited in claims 30-42 and 44-49 are amended to recite "first elastic element" and "second elastic element", respectively. Support for the amendment to claims 30-42 and 44-49 may be found, at least, in Fig. 3 and at page 15, lines 1-12 of the specification. Accordingly, claims 46-49 are definite. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4-8, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 62-145258 to Sato et al. (Sato). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sato fails to disclose or suggest an image forming apparatus, comprising a mainframe having a first guide portion provided therein; a process cartridge having a second guide portion provided therein, the second guide portion fits with the first guided portion, the process cartridge being loadable in and unloadable from the mainframe while being guided by the first guide portion, the process cartridge accommodating a photosensitive body and a processing device that acts on the photosensitive body; wherein the first guide portion guides one of the photosensitive body and the processing device to shift a position of the one of the photosensitive body and the processing device relative to the process cartridge when the process cartridge is loaded in and unloaded from the mainframe, as recited in claim 25.

As the Office Action recognizes, the subject matter of claim 14 is allowed. Accordingly, claim 25 is amended to incorporate the allowed subject matter of claim 14. Thus, claim 25 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14 is allowed, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

Because Sato does not anticipate or suggest each and every feature of claim 25, Sato cannot anticipate or suggest the subject matter of claims 2 and 4-8, which depend from claim 25, for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 25 as well as for the additional features recited therein. Thus, the pending claims are patentable over Sato. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sato in view of JP 60-140264 to Nishikawa. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

For, at least, the reasons discussed above, Nishikawa fails to overcome the deficiencies of Sato as applied to claim 25.

Because the alleged combination of Sato and Nishikawa does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of claim 25, the applied references cannot possibly render obvious the subject matter of claim 3, which depends from claim 25, for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 25 as well as for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-8 and 25 along with allowed claims 14-18, 20-24, 27-45, and allowable claims 9-13 and 26 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:KPG/tbm

Attachment:  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: July 5, 2006

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